

NANTUCKET ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Nantucket, Massachusetts

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT
Calendar Year 1980

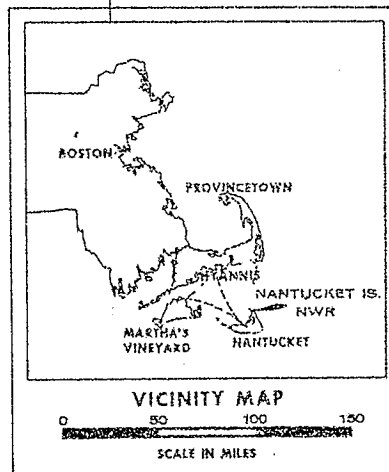
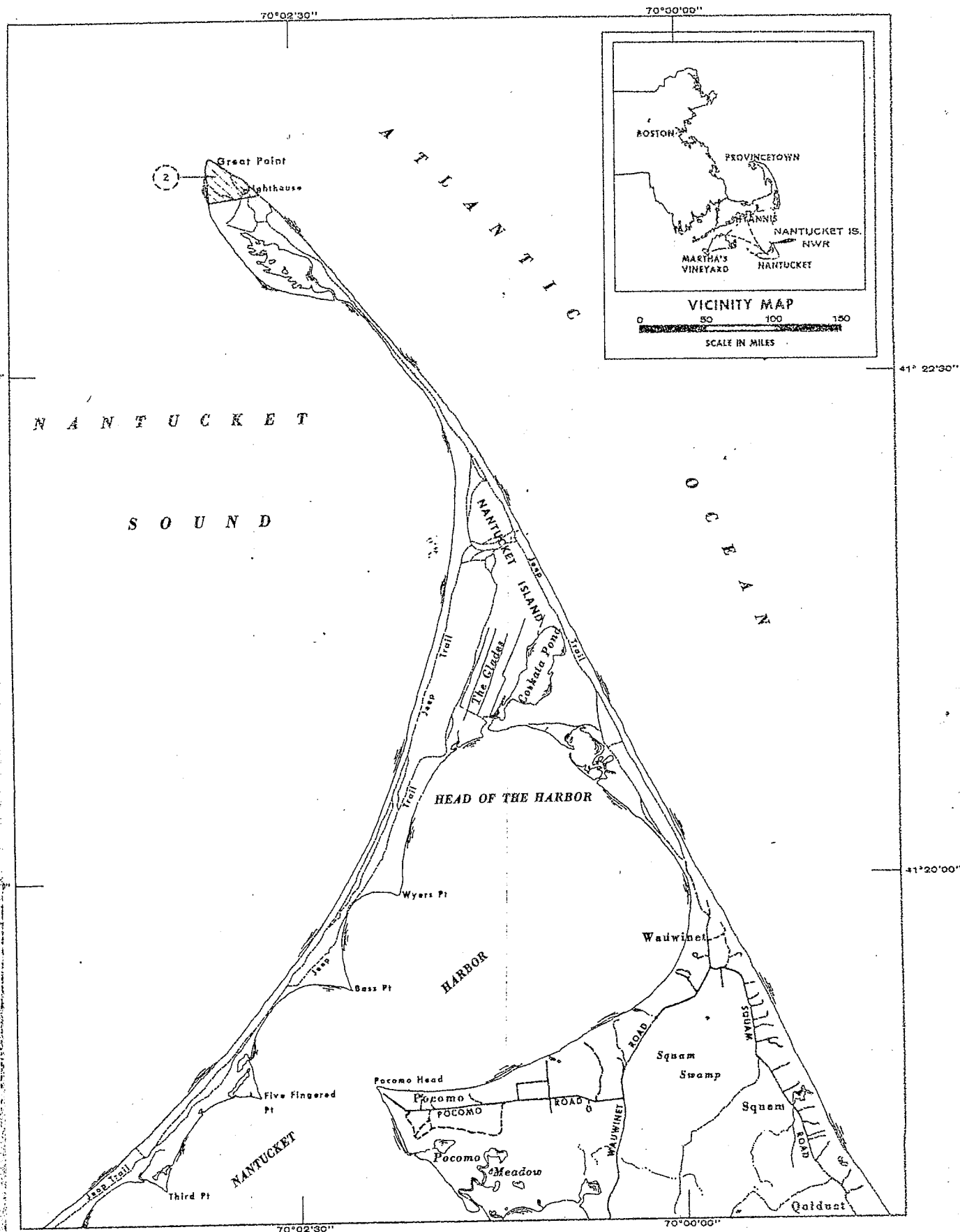
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NANTUCKET ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NANTUCKET COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



COMPILED IN THE OFFICE OF REALTY
FROM SURVEYS BY U.S.G.S. AND U.S.F.A.W.S.

SCALE 0 2000 4000 6000 8000 FEET

0 .5 1 2 KILOMETERS

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS MARCH 1974

15N°
Wauwinet
Squam
Quiduct
MEAN
DECLINATION
1973

50 MA 253 401

The Nantucket Island National Wildlife Refuge is located on the northernmost tip of the island in Nantucket County, Massachusetts. The refuge consists of approximately 16.2 ha of coastal sand dune habitat with low shrub vegetation and shifting sands.



Great Point, Nantucket Island National Wildlife Refuge,
Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. (6/12/80 TILLER)

Since 1975, the refuge has been managed for the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Trustees of Reservation, owner of the adjacent Coskata-Coatue Wildlife Refuge. The Trustees of Reservation also manage the Coatue Wildlife Refuge, a property held by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. The two adjacent, private wildlife areas total about 648 hectares.

The waters around Nantucket Island are an important wintering area for common eider, oldsquaw, scoter, scaup and other diving duck species.

Herring, and great black-backed gulls use the refuge year round. Common and least terns nest on the private wildlife areas but not on the refuge. Arctic and roseate terns can also be seen in the area during the summer.

Gray and harbor seals use the refuge in the winter.

Wildlife oriented public use of the refuge is primarily surf fishing, beach-combing, and hiking. Access is by four-wheel drive vehicle, foot or boat. Vehicle access is controlled by means of permit issued by the Trustees of Reservation. On the three areas there is a system of controlled use "Marked Over-sand Routes," or roadways within the dune areas. Vehicles are supposed to stay on these marked routes.

Most of the non-wildlife oriented recreation consists of four-wheel drive vehicle use of the beaches for other activities, such as swimming, sunbathing, and sightseeing.

On October 28, 1980, Nantucket Island National Wildlife Refuge was transferred to Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. This action was taken to better manage this island refuge that we could visit only once or twice a year.

This section was written by Assistant Manager Wood.